

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-05 PRS-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /087 W
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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1443
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 12144

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, KE

SUBJ: ATTORNEY GENERAL DENOUNCES MOVE TO REPEAL POLITICAL
DETENTION ACT

REF: (A) STATE 212655, (B) NAIROBI 10512

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. BACK-BENCH MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
DURING SEPTEMBER 15 DEBATE ON CONSTITUTION OF KENYA AMENDMENT
BILL URGED ATTORNEY GENERAL NJONJO TO SUPPORT IMMEDIATE
REPEAL OF PUBLIC SECURITY ACT, WHICH PERMITS INDEFINITE
DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL OF POLITICAL OFFENDERS. MP MAURICE
MBOJA SAID PEOPLE ACCUSED OF POLITICAL OFFENSES SHOULD BE
TRIED IN COURT "IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW...AND IF THEY
ARE FOUND GUILTY OF AN OFFENSE JAIL THEM FOR AS LONG AS
THE LAW MAY PROVIDE."

2. MBOJA'S PROPOSAL FOLLOWED CRITICAL ARTICLE ON EAST
AFRICAN DETAINEES IN SEPTEMBER 3 ISSUE OF CHRISTIAN (PAN-
DENOMINATIONAL) WEEKLY NEWSPAPER "TARGET," WHICH
CARRIED PICTURES OF DETAINEES AND CALLED FOR ALL
EAST AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS TO "FREE THEM OR TRY THEM".
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3. IN TOUGH RESPONSE TO MBOJA'S APPEAL ATTORNEY
GENERAL REITERATED GOVERNMENT POSITION THAT IT HAS NO INTENTION
OF AMENDING PUBLIC SECURITY ACT. NJONJO SAID THOSE
CURRENTLY IN DETENTION "ARE THOSE WHOSE ACTIVITIES WERE
SUBVERSIVE AND INTENDED TO UNDERMINE PEACE AND POLITICAL
STABILITY CREATED BY PRESIDENT KENYATTA." IN FRONT-

PAGE "SUNDAY NATION" INTERVIEW SEPTEMBER 18 NJONJO SAID
GOVERNMENT IS WATCHING "TARGET" AND "IF IT DOES NOT
CHANGE, IT (GOVERNMENT) WILL NOT HESITATE TO BAN THE
PAPER." END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. NJONJO'S SURPRISINGLY HEAVY-
HANDED WARNING TO "TARGET" INDICATES CONSIDERABLE UNEASINESS
ABOUT PUBLIC SCRUTINY OF GOVERNMENT'S INTERNAL SECURITY
POLICY TO WHICH IT IS FIRMLY COMMITTED. ATTORNEY GENERAL
BY THESE REMARKS EVIDENTLY INTENDED TO PRE-EMPT ANY
FURTHER PUBLIC DISCUSSION EITHER OF DETENTION LAW OR OF
POSSIBLE RELEASE OF PRESENT FOUR DETAINEES. IF VOICES
ARE RAISED AGAIN SOON ON THIS ISSUE, PROBABILITY IS
STRONG THAT GOK WILL TAKE SOME PUNITIVE STEPS TO DEMONSTRATE
IT IS NOT BLUFFING. END CONFIDENTIAL.
LE MELLE

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Message Attributes

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